

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An adjustable assembly for a cargo box cover for use on a cargo box having upwardly extending left and right side walls, [a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said walls defining the boundaries of the cargo box,] the cargo box cover having [a] left and right side rails [rail] connected to said left and right side walls [wall], respectively, an elongate tensioning rail having [a] left and right ends, [end] said elongate tensioning rail extending from said left side rail to said right side rail, and [further having] a flexible cover fixedly attached to [along] said elongate tensioning rail, said adjustable assembly comprising:

[a] left and right adjustable threaded screw connection mechanisms; the threaded screw connection mechanisms including respective left and right secured portions secured [block means connected] to said left and right side rails [rail], respectively; [a] respective left and right adjustable portions [attachment block means] connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail respectively; and respective [an] adjustable [connection means for connecting said tensioning rail to said left and right rail] screws interconnecting the respective adjustable portions to the respective secured portions, the adjustable assembly further including a graduated measuring scale on said left and right side rail so as to provide a measurement guide for accurate adjustment of the respective left and right sides of the tensioning rail with respect to the left and right side rail.

5. (Cancelled). Claim 5 is cancelled without prejudice.

6. (Currently Amended) The [An] adjustable assembly of [as in] claim 4, [5] wherein said hole defined by said front and rear block sections is of a larger diameter than said threaded tension screw.

8. (Currently Amended) An adjustable tonneau cover for a cargo box having [that comprises] upwardly extending left and right side walls, a front wall, and a rear end gate wall said walls defining the boundaries of the cargo box, the adjustable tonneau cover [assembly] comprising:

a flexible cover;

[a] left and right side rails [rail] connectable [connected] to said left and right side walls [wall] respectively;

an elongate tensioning rail having [a] left and right ends [end] said tensioning rail extending from said left side rail to said right rail; the flexible cover being secured to the elongate tensioning rail; and

left and right adjustable threaded screw connection mechanisms including:

[a] left and right securing blocks [block means]; said securing blocks being connected to said left and right side rails [rail] respectively;

[a] left and right adjustable engaging [attachment] blocks [block means connected to];
said adjustable engaging blocks being engaged with said left and right ends [end] of
said tensioning rail, respectively; and

[an] left and right adjustable connection mechanisms [means for] connecting the
respective securing blocks to the respective adjustable engaging blocks [said tensioning
rail to said left and right rail]; the adjustable tonneau cover further including a graduated
measuring scale on each of said left and right rail so as to provide a measurement
guide for accurate adjustment of said left and right ends of said tensioning rail with
respect to the left and right side rails, respectively.

12. (Cancelled). Claim 12 is cancelled without prejudice.

13. (Currently Amended) The [An] adjustable tonneau cover of [for a cargo box as in]
claim 11 [12], wherein said openings [hole] defined by said front and rear block sections
are [is] of a larger diameter than said threaded tension screw.

15. (Currently Amended) An adjustable assembly for a tonneau cover used to cover a
pickup truck cargo box, the cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls,
said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, [a front wall
and a rear end gate wall,] said plurality of upwardly extending walls at least partially
defining an interior compartment of the cargo box, the adjustable assembly comprising:

left and right side rails connected to said left and right side walls, respectively;

an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said tensioning rail extending from the left side rail to the right side rail, the tonneau cover attached to the tensioning rail; and

left and right adjustable threaded screw adjustment mechanisms, each of the respective adjustable threaded screw adjustment mechanisms having [left and right] side rail securing portions [attachment bracket mechanisms] connected to [said left and right] the respective side rails[, respectively]; and [left and right] tensioning rail engagement [attachment] members engaged with said elongate tensioning rail; wherein each of said left and right side rail securing portions [attachment bracket mechanisms] include a threaded screw member, and each of the threaded screw members are positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed upon [on] the elongate tensioning rail by each of the threaded screw members as said screw member is adjustably manipulated to force [drive] the tensioning rail away from the respective side rail securing portion [attachment bracket mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover]; wherein the tensioning rail includes a tensioning rail attachment chamber and each of said left and right tensioning rail engagement members is engaged within the tensioning rail attachment chamber.

16. (Cancelled). Claim 16 is cancelled without prejudice.

17. (Currently Amended) The adjustable assembly of claim 15 [16], wherein each of said left and right tensioning rail engagement [attachment] members extends below the side rail with which it is engaged such that the tensioning rail is restrained from being

lifted away from the respective side rails when the respective engagement [attachment] members are engaged with the respective side rails.

30. (Currently Amended) An adjustable assembly for a tonneau cover used to cover a pickup truck cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, [a front wall and a rear end gate wall,] said plurality of upwardly extending walls at least partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box, the adjustable assembly comprising:

left and right side rails connected to said left and right side walls, respectively;

an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said elongate tensioning rail extending from said left side rail to said right side rail, the tonneau cover being attached to the elongate tensioning rail;

left and right side rail securing blocks [attachment block mechanisms] connected to said left and right side rails, respectively; and

left and right tensioning rail engagement [attachment] blocks slidingly engaged with said left and right ends of said elongate tensioning rail, respectively, and adjustably engaged with [each slidingly engaging] the respective side rails [rail] proximate the respective ends of the elongate tensioning rail such that the elongate tensioning rail is adjustably [slidinely] engaged with the opposing left and right side rails and movable with respect thereto [in a generally orthogonal, constrained manner]; wherein the left and right side rail securing blocks [attachment block mechanisms] include left and right screw

members adjustably interconnecting the respective tensioning rail engagement blocks with the respective side rail securing blocks [contacting said tensioning rail].

33. (Currently Amended) An adjustable tonneau cover apparatus for attachment to a cargo box of a pickup truck, the cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, the adjustable tonneau cover apparatus comprising:

a flexible tonneau cover;

left and right side rails attachable to said left and right side walls, respectively;

left and right adjustable threaded screw attachment mechanisms secured to the left and right side rails, respectively; each of the left and right threaded screw attachment mechanisms having a secured portion, secured to the respective side rail, and an adjustable portion; wherein the adjustable portion can be moved further away from or closer to the secured portion by adjusting the respective threaded screw attachment mechanism;

a tensioning rail engaged with a first end of the flexible tonneau cover; the tensioning rail having left and right ends, which are moveable further away from the secured portion of the respective threaded screw attachment mechanism, to place a greater tension on the tonneau cover, when the left and right side rails are attached to the left and right side walls, respectively, the respective ends of the tensioning rail are slidably engaged with the adjustable portions of the respective adjustable threaded

screw attachment mechanism and the respective adjustable threaded screw attachment mechanisms are adjusted to move the adjustable portion further away from the secured portion.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of maintaining an appropriate tension on a flexible tonneau cover attached to a cargo box of a pickup truck, the pickup truck cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls at least partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box; the method comprising the steps of:

attaching an adjustable tonneau cover securing apparatus to the cargo box of the pickup truck, the step of attaching including securing the adjustable tonneau cover securing apparatus to left and right side walls of the cargo box; the adjustable tonneau cover securing apparatus including: left and right side rails attachable to said left and right side walls, respectively; left and right adjustable threaded screw attachment mechanisms secured to the left and right side rails, respectively; and a tensioning rail engaged with a first end of the flexible tonneau cover; each of the left and right threaded screw attachment mechanisms having a secured portion, secured to the respective left or right side rail; and an adjustable portion; wherein the adjustable portion can be moved further away from or closer to the secured portion by adjusting the respective threaded screw attachment mechanism; the tensioning rail having left and right ends, which are moveable further away from the secured portion of the respective threaded screw attachment mechanism to place a greater tension on the tonneau cover when the left and right side rails are attached to the left and right side walls of the cargo box,

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respectively; the respective ends of the tensioning rail being slidably engaged with the adjustable portions of the respective adjustable threaded screw attachment mechanism and the respective adjustable screw attachment mechanisms being adjustable to move the adjustable portion further away from the secured portion; and

adjusting the respective adjustable threaded screw attachment mechanisms to move the adjustable portion further away from the secured portion.

APPENDIX

For the convenience of the Examiner and the Patent Office Printing Office, an Appendix is provided below listing all of the claims as originally filed or subsequently added by amendment and showing all deletions and additions as compared to the originally filed or added claims, as well as cancellations to date, whether or not such amendments or cancellations are currently made in the present Amendment.

1. (Amended) An adjustable assembly for a cargo box cover for use on a cargo box having upwardly extending left and right side walls, [a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said walls defining the boundaries of the cargo box,] the cargo box cover having [a] left and right side rails [rail] connected to said left and right side walls [wall], respectively, an elongate tensioning rail having [a] left and right ends, [end] said elongate tensioning rail extending from said left side rail to said right side rail, and [further having] a flexible cover fixedly attached to [along] said elongate tensioning rail, said adjustable assembly comprising:

[a] left and right adjustable threaded screw connection mechanisms; the threaded screw connection mechanisms including respective left and right secured portions secured [block means connected] to said left and right side rails [rail], respectively; [a] respective left and right adjustable portions [attachment block means] connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail respectively; and respective [an] adjustable [connection means for connecting said tensioning rail to said left and right rail] screws interconnecting the respective adjustable portions to the respective secured portions, the adjustable assembly further including a graduated measuring scale on said left and right side rail so as to provide a measurement guide for accurate adjustment of the

respective left and right sides of the tensioning rail with respect to the left and right side rail.

2. (Amended) The [An] adjustable assembly of [as in] claim 1, wherein each of said left and right secured portions having [block means connected to said left and right rail comprises a] front and rear block sections [section] connected to a base block section so as to define a space between said front and rear block section, said front and rear block sections further defining a hole in an aligned orientation so as to pass through said front and rear block sections [section] and across the [said] space between the [said] front and rear block sections.
3. (Amended) The [An] adjustable assembly of [as in] claim 2, wherein each of said left and right adjustable portions include [attachment block means comprises] an attachment block section having an elongate threaded [treaded] tension screw fixedly attached to said attachment block section and extending through said front and rear block sections spanning the [said] space between the [said] front and rear block sections.
4. (Amended) The [An] adjustable assembly of [as in] claim 3, further comprising a screw adjustment knob between said front and rear block section defining an inner threaded hole for receiving said threaded tension screw.
5. (Cancelled without prejudice)

6. (Amended) The [An] adjustable assembly of [as in] claim 4, [5] wherein said hole defined by said front and rear block sections is of a larger diameter than said threaded tension screw.

7. (Amended) The [An] adjustable assembly of [as in] claim 1, wherein said left and right secured portions are [block means is] fixedly connected to said left and right side rails [end of said tensioning rail] and said left and right adjustable portions are engaged with [attachment block means is fixedly connected to] said left and right ends of said tensioning rail.

8. (Amended) An adjustable tonneau cover for a cargo box having [that comprises] upwardly extending left and right side walls, a front wall, and a rear end gate wall said walls defining the boundaries of the cargo box, the adjustable tonneau cover [assembly] comprising:

a flexible cover;

[a] left and right side rails [rail] connectable [connected] to said left and right side walls [wall] respectively;

an elongate tensioning rail having [a] left and right ends [end] said tensioning rail extending from said left side rail to said right rail; the flexible cover being secured to the elongate tensioning rail; and

left and right adjustable threaded screw connection mechanisms including:

[a] left and right securing blocks [block means]; said securing blocks being connected to said left and right side rails [rail] respectively;

[a] left and right adjustable engaging [attachment] blocks [block means connected to]; said adjustable engaging blocks being engaged with said left and right ends [end] of said tensioning rail, respectively; and

[an] left and right adjustable connection mechanisms [means for] connecting the respective securing blocks to the respective adjustable engaging blocks [said tensioning rail to said left and right rail]; the adjustable tonneau cover further including a graduated measuring scale on each of said left and right rail so as to provide a measurement guide for accurate adjustment of said left and right ends of said tensioning rail with respect to the left and right side rails, respectively.

9. (Amended) The [An] adjustable tonneau cover of [for a cargo box as in] claim 8, [wherein] each of the [said] left and right securing blocks [block means connected to said left and right rail comprises a] having front and rear block sections [section] connected to a base block section so as to define a space between the [said] front and rear block sections, the [said] front and rear block sections further defining openings [a hole] in an aligned orientation so as to pass through both of said front and rear block sections [section across said space between said front and rear block sections].

10. (Amended) The [An] adjustable tonneau cover of [for a cargo box as in] claim 9, wherein each of said left and right adjustable engaging blocks [attachment block means

comprises] includes an attachment block section having an elongate tressed tension screw fixedly attached to said attachment block [section] and extending through said front and rear block sections spanning the [said] space between the [said] front and rear block sections [section].

11. (Amended) The [An] adjustable tonneau cover of [for a cargo box as in] claim 10,
further comprising a screw adjustment knob between said front and rear block sections
[section] defining an inner threaded opening [hole] for receiving said threaded tension
screw.

12. (Cancelled without prejudice)

13. (Amended) The [An] adjustable tonneau cover of [for a cargo box as in] claim 11
[12], wherein said openings [hole] defined by said front and rear block sections are [is]
of a larger diameter than said threaded tension screw.

14. (Amended) The [An] adjustable tonneau cover of [for a cargo box as in] claim 8,
wherein said left and right securing blocks are [block means is] fixedly connected to said
left and right side rails, respectively [end of said tensioning rail], and said left and right
attachment blocks are [block means is] fixedly connected to the respective ends of the
tensioning rail [said left and right rail].

15. (Amended) An adjustable assembly for a tonneau cover used to cover a pickup
truck cargo box, the cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls, said
plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, [a front wall and

a rear end gate wall,] said plurality of upwardly extending walls at least partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box, the adjustable assembly comprising:

left and right side rails connected to said left and right side walls, respectively;

an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said tensioning rail extending from the left side rail to the right side rail, the tonneau cover attached to the tensioning rail;
and

left and right adjustable threaded screw adjustment mechanisms, each of the respective adjustable threaded screw adjustment mechanisms having [left and right] side rail securing portions [attachment bracket mechanisms] connected to [said left and right] the respective side rails[, respectively]; and [left and right] tensioning rail engagement [attachment] members engaged with said elongate tensioning rail; wherein each of said left and right side rail securing portions [attachment bracket mechanisms] include a threaded screw member, and each of the threaded screw members are positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed upon [on] the elongate tensioning rail by each of the threaded screw members as said screw member is adjustably manipulated to force [drive] the tensioning rail away from the respective side rail securing portion [attachment bracket mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover] ; wherein the tensioning rail includes a tensioning rail attachment chamber and each of said left and right tensioning rail engagement members is engaged within the tensioning rail attachment chamber.

16. (Cancelled without prejudice)

17. (Amended) The adjustable assembly of claim 15 [16], wherein each of said left and right tensioning rail engagement [attachment] members extends below the side rail with which it is engaged such that the tensioning rail is restrained from being lifted away from the respective side rails when the respective engagement [attachment] members are engaged with the respective side rails.

18. (Amended) The adjustable assembly of claim 15, wherein each of the [pair of] threaded screw members is engaged in coaxially aligned[, reciprocally threaded] openings in each of the respective side rail securing portions [attachment bracket mechanisms].

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Amended) An adjustable assembly for a tonneau cover used to cover a pickup truck cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, [a front wall and a rear end gate wall,] said plurality of upwardly extending walls at least partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box, the adjustable assembly comprising:

left and right side rails connected to said left and right side walls, respectively;

an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said elongate tensioning rail extending from said left side rail to said right side rail, the tonneau cover being attached to the elongate tensioning rail;

left and right side rail securing blocks [attachment block mechanisms] connected to said left and right side rails, respectively; and

left and right tensioning rail engagement [attachment] blocks slidingly engaged with said left and right ends of said elongate tensioning rail, respectively, and adjustably engaged with [each slidingly engaging] the respective side rails [rail] proximate the respective ends of the elongate tensioning rail such that the elongate tensioning rail is adjustably [slidinely] engaged with the opposing left and right side rails and movable with respect thereto [in a generally orthogonal, constrained manner]; wherein the left and right side rail securing blocks [attachment block mechanisms] include left and right screw members adjustably interconnecting the respective tensioning rail engagement blocks with the respective side rail securing blocks [contacting said tensioning rail].

31. (Cancelled)

32. A method of maintaining an appropriate tension on a tonneau cover secured to a cargo box of a pickup truck, the pickup truck cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said plurality of upwardly extending walls at least partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box; the method comprising:

attaching a tonneau cover and a tonneau cover attachment frame having a tonneau cover adjustment mechanism to the pickup truck, the tonneau cover attachment frame including left and right side rails which are connected to said left and right side walls, respectively; an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said tensioning rail extending from the left side rail to the right side rail, the tonneau cover attached to the tensioning rail; left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms connected to said left and right side rails, respectively; the elongate tensioning rail

including left and right tensioning rail attachment members engaged with said tensioning rail and positioned and arranged to sliding secure the elongate tensioning rail to the respective side rails; wherein each of said left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms include a threaded screw member, and each of the threaded screw members are positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by each of the threaded screw members as each said screw member is adjustably manipulated to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment bracket mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover; and

manipulating the respective attachment bracket mechanisms so as to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment bracket mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover following the step of attaching, at such time as it is desirable to place a greater tension on the tonneau cover.

33. (Amended) An adjustable tonneau cover apparatus for attachment to a cargo box of a pickup truck, the cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, the adjustable tonneau cover apparatus comprising:

a flexible tonneau cover;

left and right side rails attachable to said left and right side walls, respectively;

left and right adjustable threaded screw attachment mechanisms secured to the left and right side rails, respectively; each of the left and right threaded screw attachment mechanisms having a secured portion, secured to the respective side rail, and an adjustable portion; wherein the adjustable portion can be moved further away from or closer to the secured portion by adjusting the respective threaded screw attachment mechanism;

a tensioning rail engaged with a first end of the flexible tonneau cover; the tensioning rail having left and right ends, which are moveable further away from the secured portion of the respective threaded screw attachment mechanism, to place a greater tension on the tonneau cover, when the left and right side rails are attached to the left and right side walls, respectively, the respective ends of the tensioning rail are slidably engaged with the adjustable portions of the respective adjustable threaded screw attachment mechanism and the respective adjustable threaded screw attachment mechanisms are adjusted to move the adjustable portion further away from the secured portion.

34. The adjustable tonneau cover securing apparatus of claim 33, wherein the respective adjustable threaded screw attachment mechanisms include a screw that passes through an opening in the secured portion.

35. (Amended) A method of maintaining an appropriate tension on a flexible tonneau cover attached to a cargo box of a pickup truck, the pickup truck cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including

left and right side walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls at least partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box; the method comprising the steps of:

attaching an adjustable tonneau cover securing apparatus to the cargo box of the pickup truck, the step of attaching including securing the adjustable tonneau cover securing apparatus to left and right side walls of the cargo box; the adjustable tonneau cover securing apparatus including: left and right side rails attachable to said left and right side walls, respectively; left and right adjustable threaded screw attachment mechanisms secured to the left and right side rails, respectively; and a tensioning rail engaged with a first end of the flexible tonneau cover; each of the left and right threaded screw attachment mechanisms having a secured portion, secured to the respective left or right side rail; and an adjustable portion; wherein the adjustable portion can be moved further away from or closer to the secured portion by adjusting the respective threaded screw attachment mechanism; the tensioning rail having left and right ends, which are moveable further away from the secured portion of the respective threaded screw attachment mechanism to place a greater tension on the tonneau cover when the left and right side rails are attached to the left and right side walls of the cargo box, respectively; the respective ends of the tensioning rail being slidably engaged with the adjustable portions of the respective adjustable threaded screw attachment mechanism and the respective adjustable screw attachment mechanisms being adjustable to move the adjustable portion further away from the secured portion; and

adjusting the respective adjustable threaded screw attachment mechanisms to move the adjustable portion further away from the secured portion.

36. An adjustable assembly for a cargo box cover for use on a cargo box having upwardly extending left and right side walls, the cargo box cover having left and right side rails connected to said left and right side walls, respectively, an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said elongate tensioning rail extending from said left side rail to said right side rail, and a flexible cover fixedly attached to said elongate tensioning rail, said adjustable assembly comprising:

left and right adjustable threaded screw connection mechanisms; the threaded screw connection mechanisms including respective left and right secured portions secured to said left and right side rails, respectively; respective left and right adjustable screws engaged with the elongate tensioning rail so that the respective screws can be adjusted to force the elongated tensioning rail incrementally further away from the respective, left and right, secured portions.

37. The adjustable assembly of claim 36, wherein said left and right secured portions are fixedly connected to said left and right side rails and said left and right adjustable portions are engaged with said left and right ends of said tensioning rail.

38. An adjustable assembly for a tonneau cover used to cover a pickup truck cargo box, the cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls at least partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box, the adjustable assembly comprising:

left and right side rails connected to said left and right side walls, respectively;

an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said tensioning rail extending from the left side rail to the right side rail, the tonneau cover attached to the tensioning rail; and

left and right adjustable threaded screw adjustment mechanisms, each of the respective adjustable threaded screw adjustment mechanisms having side rail securing portions connected to the respective side rails; wherein each of said left and right side rail securing portions include a threaded screw member, and each of the threaded screw members are positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed upon the elongate tensioning rail by each of the threaded screw members as said screw member is adjustably manipulated to force the tensioning rail away from the respective side rail securing portion.